

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: John Blake Slemmer et al.

Application No.: 10/767,186

Filed: January 29, 2004

For: **Car-Safe Messaging Interfaces for Interactive Pagers and Related Methods**

Examiner: Tu X. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 2618

Confirmation No.: 4658

Date: March 21, 2007

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Sir:

Applicants submit the present *Interview Summary* to record the substance of three telephonic interviews between Examiner Tu Nguyen and Applicant's representative, D. Randal Ayers, and to make of record two e-mail communications between Applicant's representative and the Examiner.

In particular, Applicant's representative scheduled an interview with Examiner Nguyen for March 5, 2007. At the time of the interview, the Examiner had not yet had an opportunity to review Applicant's Amendment filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 14, 2007. Applicant's representative advised the Examiner that he would be interested in discussing the amended claims presented by Applicant to see if agreement could be reached regarding allowable subject matter contained therein once the Examiner had the opportunity to review Applicant's Amendment.

Examiner Nguyen and Applicant's representative held another telephonic interview on March 20, 2007. Examiner Nguyen indicated that he believed that the case could be put into condition for allowance – subject to the approval of the Supervisory Examiner – if Applicant (1) added the recitation of Claim 38 to independent Claims 4, 5, 16, 21 and 37 and (2) cancelled independent Claim 40 and the claims depending therefrom. Applicant's representative and Examiner Nguyen also discussed the patentability of Claims 40 and 43 over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0008680, but no agreement was reached with respect to the patentability of these claims. Applicant's representative advised the Examiner that he would contact the client and promptly provide a response to the Examiner's proposal.

On March 21, 2007, Applicant's representative contacted Examiner Nguyen in a third

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telephonic interview and agreed to have Examiner Nguyen amend the claims as had been suggested in the event that such amendment would result in allowance of the case.

Applicant's representative likewise explained that the suggested amendments would require various additional changes to the claims, including cancellation of several dependent claims and adding or changing various aspects of the independent claims. Applicant's representative indicated that he would e-mail the Examiner proposed claim changes. Attached hereto is the e-mail forwarding such proposed claim changes and the Examiner's response thereto.

It is not believed that an extension of time and/or additional fee(s) – including fees for net addition of claims – are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,

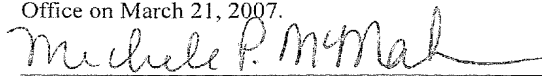


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**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 21, 2007.



Michele P. McMahan  
Date of Signature: March 21, 2007

## Ayers, Randal

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**From:** Ayers, Randal  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2007 11:18 AM  
**To:** 'tu.nguyen51@uspto.gov'  
**Subject:** Proposed Claim Amendment: U.S. Serial No. 10/767,186



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Examiner Nguyen:

As we discussed, attached are claim amendments that incorporate the concept of Claim 38 into the remaining independent claims. I have also added the additional language you suggested. Due to the claim amendments, several dependent claims have been cancelled. Please let me know if these proposed claim amendments are acceptable and will result in allowance of the case.

Thank you.

Randy Ayers

**D. Randal Ayers**

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**Proposed Claim Amendments:**

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, wherein the user interface further comprises a keypad and wherein at least some of the keys on the keypad may be used to select respective ones of the plurality of pre-defined text messages.

4. (Currently Amended) A messaging interface for an interactive pager, comprising:

- a housing;
- a message processing circuit located within the housing;
- a user interface that comprises a microphone located at least partly within the housing, the user interface that is configured to convey a an audio message received via the microphone that is associated with a text message between a user of the interactive pager and the message processing circuit, wherein the message processing circuit includes a voice recognition circuit that is configured to convert the audio message into a text message; and
- a communications circuit that is coupled to the message processing circuit and that is configured to convey the text message between from the message processing circuit to and the interactive pager; and
- a voice synthesis circuit located within the housing that is configured to convert the text message into an audio signal and to play the audio signal to the user before the text message is forwarded to the interactive pager so that the user can confirm that the audio message was properly converted into the text message.

~~wherein the user interface comprises a microphone, the message comprises an audio message received via the microphone, and the message processing circuit includes a voice recognition circuit that is configured to convert the audio message into the text message.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A messaging interface for an interactive pager, comprising:

- a housing;
- a message processing circuit located within the housing;
- a user interface located at least partly within the housing that is configured to convey a message that is associated with a text message between the interactive pager and the message processing circuit; and

a communications circuit that is coupled to the message processing circuit and that is configured to convey the text message between the message processing circuit and the interactive pager; and

wherein the user interface comprises a microphone, the message comprises an audio message received via the microphone, and the message processing circuit includes a voice recognition circuit;

wherein the text message comprises a text message that is conveyed from the message processing circuit to the interactive pager for transmission by the interactive pager,

wherein the messaging interface further comprises a memory storage device located within the housing that stores a plurality of pre-defined text messages, and

wherein the audio message comprises a command that selects one of the plurality of pre-defined text messages as the text message that is conveyed from the message processing circuit to the interactive pager for transmission by the interactive pager;

wherein the user interface further comprises a speaker and an associated driving circuit and the message processing circuit further comprises a voice synthesis circuit;

wherein the voice synthesis circuit is configured to play through the speaker a second text message that is associated with a second message input via the microphone before the second text message is forwarded to the interactive pager to facilitate confirming that the second text message accurately reproduces the contents of the second message.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The messaging interface of Claim 6, 5, wherein the speaker is part of an automobile stereo system.

8. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, further comprising a docking cradle, and wherein the communications circuit comprises a communications port.

9. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, wherein the messaging interface is powered via an external power supply.

10. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 4, further comprising a

power supply located within the housing.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, wherein at least some of the plurality of pre-defined text messages comprise pre-defined messages that are specified by the user of the interactive pager.

13. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, wherein at least some of the plurality of pre-defined text messages comprise factory pre-set pre-defined messages.

14. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 5, wherein the housing includes a docking cradle that is configured to mate with the interactive pager.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A messaging interface for an interactive pager, comprising:  
a housing;  
a microphone located within the housing;  
a voice recognition circuit located within the housing that is configured to convert an audio signal received by the microphone into a text message; and  
a communications circuit in the housing that is configured to forward the text message from the voice recognition circuit to the interactive pager;  
a memory storage device located within the housing that stores a plurality of pre-defined text messages, wherein at least some of the plurality of pre-defined messages are forwarded to the interactive pager in response to a voice command; and  
a voice synthesis circuit;  
a speaker coupled to the voice synthesis circuit;  
wherein the voice synthesis circuit is configured to play through the speaker a second text message that is associated with a second message input via the microphone before the

second text message is forwarded to the interactive pager to facilitate confirm that the second text message accurately reproduces the contents of the second message.

17. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 16, wherein the text message is formatted so as to be suitable for transmission by the interactive pager, and wherein the messaging interface further comprises a keypad having a plurality of keys that are associated with at least some of the plurality of pre-defined text messages.

18. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 17, further comprising a speaker and a voice synthesis circuit that is configured to convert a second text message received by the interactive pager into an electronic signal that is played through the speaker.

19. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 17, wherein the housing includes a docking cradle that is configured to mate with the interactive pager, and wherein the communications circuit comprises a communications port.

20. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 17, further comprising a connection that draws power from a DC power source in an automobile.

21. (Currently Amended) A messaging interface for an interactive pager, comprising:  
a housing;

a microphone located within the housing;

a memory storage device within the housing, the memory storage device containing a plurality of pre-defined text messages;

a plurality of user selectable indicia provided on the housing, a respective one of which is associated with a respective one of the plurality of pre-defined text messages; and

a communications circuit configured to forward one of the plurality of pre-defined text messages from the messaging interface to the interactive pager for transmission by the interactive pager in response to the selection of one of the plurality of user selectable indicia;

a voice synthesis circuit;

a speaker coupled to the voice synthesis circuit;

wherein at least some of the plurality of pre-defined text messages comprise pre-

defined messages that are specified by the user of the interactive pager;

wherein the voice synthesis circuit is configured to play through the speaker a text message that is associated with a message input via the microphone before the text message that is associated with a message is forwarded to the interactive pager to facilitate confirming that the text message accurately reproduces the contents of the message input via the microphone.

22. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 21, wherein the plurality of user selectable indicia comprise a plurality of buttons.

23. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 22, wherein at least some of the plurality of buttons are shaped differently than other of the plurality of buttons.

24. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 22, wherein the top surface of at least some of the plurality of buttons are configured differently than the top surface of other of the plurality of buttons.

25. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 22, further comprising a backlight that illuminates one or more of the plurality of buttons.

26. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 25, wherein the messaging interface further comprises a photo detector, and wherein the backlight is responsive to a signal from the photo detector.

27. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 21, wherein one of the plurality of user selectable indicia activates a SEND command.

28. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 21, wherein repeatedly selecting one of the plurality of user selectable indicia within a predetermined time period activates a SEND command.

29. (Currently Amended) The messaging interface of Claim 21, further comprising a ~~microphone and~~ a voice recognition circuit that is configured to convert an audio signal input



via the microphone into a second text message, and wherein the communications circuit is further configured to forward the second text message provided by the voice recognition circuit to the interactive pager.

30. (Currently Amended) The messaging interface of Claim 29, wherein the second text message provided by the voice recognition circuit may comprise one of the plurality of pre-defined text messages.

31. (Currently Amended) The messaging interface of Claim 22, ~~further comprising a wherein the speaker and the a voice synthesis circuit that is~~ are configured to convert a second text message received by the interactive pager into an electronic signal that is played through the speaker.

32. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of buttons may be used to cause the voice synthesis circuit to output through the speaker a synthesized voice signal that reads identifying information associated with a received text message.

33. (Original) The messaging interface of Claim 21, wherein the housing includes a docking cradle that is configured to mate with the interactive pager, and wherein the communications circuit comprises a communications port.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The messaging interface of Claim 37, wherein the speaker is part of an automobile stereo system.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A messaging interface for an interactive pager, comprising:  
a housing;

a voice synthesis circuit located within the housing that is configured to convert a text message into an audio signal;

a speaker responsive to the voice synthesis circuit;

a communications circuit, located at least partly within the housing, that is coupled to the voice synthesis circuit and that is configured to forward the text message from the interactive pager to the voice synthesis circuit; and

a microphone and a voice recognition circuit that is configured to convert an audio signal input via the microphone into a second text message,

wherein the communications circuit is further configured to forward the second text message provided by the voice recognition circuit to the interactive pager,

wherein the messaging interface further includes a memory storage device located within the housing that stores a plurality of pre-defined text messages, and wherein the voice recognition circuit is configured to forward one of the plurality of pre-defined messages to the interactive pager in response to the audio signal input via the microphone;

wherein the voice synthesis circuit is configured to play back a message input via the microphone before the message input via the microphone is forwarded as a text message to the interactive pager to facilitate confirming that the text message accurately reproduces the contents of the message input via the microphone.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The messaging interface of Claim 37, wherein the messaging interface further includes a keypad having a plurality of keys and a memory storage device located within the housing that stores a plurality of pre-defined text messages, and wherein at least some of the plurality of keys may be used to select respective of the plurality of pre-defined text messages.

40-45. (Cancelled)

**Ayers, Randal**

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**From:** Nguyen, Tu (AU 2682) [Tu.Nguyen51@USPTO.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2007 11:59 AM  
**To:** Ayers, Randal  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Claim Amendment: U.S. Serial No. 10/767,186

I will submit Examiner's admendment base on your proposal.  
Tu Nguyen

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ayers, Randal [mailto:rayers@myersbigel.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2007 10:18 AM  
**To:** Nguyen, Tu (AU 2682)  
**Subject:** Proposed Claim Amendment: U.S. Serial No. 10/767,186

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